

Weather Forecast
Cloudy, light rain or snow tonight and tomorrow; lowest tonight about 30; gentle northwest winds. Temperatures today—Highest, 38, at midnight; lowest, 24, at 7:15 a.m.; 37, at 1 p.m.
From the United States Weather Bureau report.

Closing N. Y. Markets—Sales, Page 13.

88th YEAR. No. 35,291.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1940—THIRTY-TWO PAGES. **

An Evening Newspaper
With the Full Day's News
LOCAL—NATIONAL—FOREIGN
Associated Press and (P) Wirephotos, North American Newspaper Alliance, Chicago Daily News Foreign Service, The Star's Staff Writers, Reporters and Photographers.
(P) Meigs Associated Press.

THREE CENTS.

Laval Ousted as Petain Aide; Reported in Custody in Vichy; Flandin Is Appointed Successor

Makes No Difference In Relations With Reich, Chief Says

BULLETIN.

VICHY, France, Dec. 14.—Pierre Laval resigned today from the government of France and, by decree, his rights of succession to chief of state were abolished. Marshal Philippe Petain, the chief of state, declared in a radio speech tonight that M. Laval, who has been both Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, now is no longer a part of the government because of "the interest of the country."

Pierre-Edouard Flandin was appointed to succeed him as Foreign Minister.

"It is for high reasons of interior policy that I am resolved to take this decision," said the old marshal. "It will make no difference in our relations with Germany."

It was M. Laval, the constant appeaser, who initiated post-armistice collaboration with Hitler by defeated France.

Marshal Petain continued: "I remain at the head of the national revolution continues."

An official commentary reiterated that Laval left the government only for "interior political motives" and that Petain will now give a more unified character to his government.

The commentary also said that Petain had notified Adolf Hitler of Flandin's nomination and that he appeared "more apt" than his predecessor.

By the Associated Press.

BERN, Switzerland, Dec. 14.—Authoritatively diplomatic sources reported today that Vice Premier Pierre Laval of the French government at Vichy had tendered his resignation to Premier Petain. It was not at once known if the resignation had been accepted.

The same report said that M. Laval had been placed in custody and that the Petain government had been meeting all day, discussing choice of a successor who would be acceptable to the Germans on one hand and Marshal Petain and Gen. Maxime Weygand on the other.

M. Laval is the foremost proponent of French-German collaboration. Gen. Weygand is supreme military commander for Vichy in North Africa.

Shortly before the receipt in Bern of news of M. Laval's resignation, telephone communication between Switzerland and Vichy had been cut without explanation.

Just before the interruption, the Associated Press bureau here was in brief contact with the Vichy government on hand and heard only the words "something big is coming up" before the connection was broken.

M. Laval has been a sort of agent between the Vichy government and Germany. On October 24, before a long interview with Adolf Hitler, he said he believed democracy was dead in all the modern world and that he was prepared to stake France's future upon collaboration with Germany. He gave a strong impression at that time that in connection with that "collaboration" he earnestly hoped for the defeat of England.

Refugee Ship Disaster

Dead Toll Rises to 223

By the Associated Press.

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Dec. 14.—The dead list from the capsizing of a Jewish refugee ship on a reef in the Sea of Marmara mounted to 223 today and officials said about one-half of the bodies had been recovered.

Survivors of the wreck of the 100-ton wooden vessel huddled in temporary camps near the shore.

The White Russian captain of the ship, who was detained pending an investigation, said he had been sailing in Turkish waters since 1917.

Nearly 400 passengers boarded the boat at Varna, Bulgaria, including Rumanian, Polish, Czech and German Jews. Survivors said each paid \$750 for a passage with the guarantee that they would be landed in Palestine.

A physician who headed the expedition was among the victims.

Greek Colonel Named

Military Attache Here

By the Associated Press.

LISBON, Portugal, Dec. 14.—Col. E. Papavassiliou, formerly of the Greek general staff, who recently arrived here from Athens, has been appointed Greek Military Attache at Washington and will leave shortly by trans-Atlantic clipper on what he termed a "special important mission."

Germans' Big Guns Shell

Dover Strait for Hour

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—German long-range guns mounted on the French coast shelled the Dover Strait for nearly an hour this afternoon.

The firing, resumed after a lull of several days, came at five-minute intervals. No casualties were reported.

GUIDE FOR READERS

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R. A. F. Blasts Italian Bases And Troops

Retreating Fascists Strafed in British Mopup in Egypt

By the Associated Press.

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 14.—An unceasing R. A. F. bombardment and machine-gun strafing of Italian landing fields, supply depots, transport and troops was reported today by the British in their grand assault to clear the Egyptian sands of the Fascist invaders.

A military spokesman said he could not confirm reports that the pursuit of the Italians already had resulted in the recapture of Salum, 7 miles inside the Egyptian border, or that Port Capuzzo, in Libya itself, had fallen.

Whether the British intend to keep on chasing the Italians within Libya was a question no authority would discuss. Were such a course pursued, the only objective, it was learned, would be destruction of the Italian main army.

Derna, Italian base more than 150 miles within adjacent Libya, was pounded by "veral tons" of bombs last night, the R. A. F. spokesman reported. They fell on barracks, wireless stations and other military buildings, it was said.

Bardia, Libya, also was attacked again, direct hits were scored on supply depots at Gubbi, Gambut, Talmi and Bomba, the R. A. F. reported, and Gazala also was raided.

Fire Sprayed Into Troops.

British fighting planes, mounting eight machine guns in their wings, were said to have swooped down on the Tobruk-Bardia road, in Libya, spraying fire into retreating troops. The communiqué said the planes "took a heavy toll of the enemy."

Land fighters, aided by this aerial assault since the British surprise offensive started five days ago, were said to have been mopping up the retreating Italian forces. A "Christmas present for the folks back home."

The advanced British units already may have driven a wedge into Libya.

Yesterday, the British said, they shot down 15 Italian planes and lost four of their own Gladiators. The pilots of three of the latter were saved.

Despite their job on the Egyptian front, the British flyers also raided several points in Italian East Africa, including the Eritrean port of Asmara.

Direct hits were claimed on Caproni workshops at Mai Adaga.

Reports from the sand-swept battle zone said fast-moving British advance units were keeping on the heels of retreating Italians, while the main British force relayed truck caravans of prisoners to the rear and consolidated its position against any possible counter-attack.

Battlefield Being Cleared.

A British communiqué said "clearance of the vast battlefield continues and the number of prisoners is steadily mounting." Desert forces still pressed the Italians back.

The communiqué estimated 26,000 Italians were prisoners, though unofficial estimates ran higher, since the British have had difficulty counting the new ones.

A British spokesman declared that there could be "very little" fighting still proceeding on the Egyptian side of the frontier. He added that British advance forces were "going very well."

Reliable British sources said last night that British casualties had been very light. Even the Italian casualties, it was said, were not comparable to the 30,000 or more troops reported captured.

Prisoner Tally Mounts.

The tally of prisoners mounted hourly, making accurate count still impossible. The number captured was described as so great that the British were confronted with a major problem in feeding them and transporting them back to Egypt.

Along with the continuing job of smashing the Italian line, the coastal road past Bardia and pounding Fascist reserve and supply bases important to any counter thrust, the British Navy helped in the transport of the prisoners.

British bombers kept at their work behind the Italian lines, and a correspondent for Reuters (British news agency) quoted returning pilots as saying that large fires were burning in Salum and long columns of smoke were rising.

(See EGYPT, Page A-3.)

Bulletin

Sites for four additional naval ordnance plants to cost approximately \$35,000,000 were announced today by the Navy Department.

Acting Secretary Forrester told the 19,000-ton Norwegian liner Oslofjord, reported sunk while en route to New York, was destroyed by German bombers.

(See LINER, Page A-5.)

Oslofjord Struck Mine, Germans Believe

BERLIN, Dec. 14 (AP)—DNB, official German news agency, said today the 18,000-ton Norwegian liner Oslofjord, reported sunk while en route to New York, was destroyed by German bombers.

(See LINER, Page A-5.)

R. A. F. Ace Tells How Bombers Blasted Parachute Invaders' Channel Hideout

By CAPT. H. C. BIARD.

LONDON, Dec. 14 (N.A.N.A.).—We have all heard a lot of talk about Adolf Hitler's "secret weapons" with which he is going to pulverize the British Empire.

He really has such weapons and he is still doing his best to get on with the pulverization.

Half a dozen times in November and December the Germans concentrated a lot of dangerous stuff just across the Channel. Each time the R. A. F. has dropped in with some bouquets of forget-me-nots and "der tag" has had to be postponed.

Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France—one after the other went reeling beneath the iron heel of the invader through

successes first gained by German parachute troops. So Hitler, in the interim before his next performance (still billed as the invasion of England) has been re-equipping and building up to fantastic numbers his famous parachute regiments.

Three full regiments of parachute troops were founded by Gen. Hermann Goering at Stendahl, between Berlin and Hanover, five years ago. A few picked officers worked with Franco's troops in Spain, in the German "Condor Legion," and gained parachute experience under war conditions. The strongest and fittest soldiers in the German army were selected, in great secrecy, and trained for parachute attack.

There came a day when the Nazis had brought their three parachute regiments right up to strength with the Channel and took pictures. He was an American, lived in Pasadena and was proud, and then some, of his Scottish ancestry.



Fire Destroys Plant At Hoboken Busy On Defense Orders

One Employee Is Killed In Factory Making Ship Equipment

By the Associated Press.

HOBOKEN, N. J., Dec. 14.—Fire early today destroyed the plant of the Condor Service & Engineering Corp., active in national defense orders, with a loss estimated by the company spokesman at from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. One man was killed.

The dead man was tentatively identified as George Jacobs of Jersey City, night watchman, who discovered the fire with four other workmen, comprising the night shift at the plant.

The other men said the watchman apparently had been going back into the plant office to obtain papers and was trapped by the flames. His body was found near the office.

Olaf Anderson of North Bergen, plant executive, estimated the loss at \$1,000,000, including valuable wood patterns and specially built machines being constructed to fill defense orders.

Made Ship Equipment.

H. C. Evans, company treasurer, said the million-dollar estimate was "much too high—about a tenth of that."

The company built turbines, condensers and other equipment for steamships.

The plant was a one and two-story building spreading over half a city square.

The men working at the time said they saw a flash near the ceiling shortly after 2 a. m. and the flames became ablaze. With Mr. Jacobs, they fought the fire, but when it got beyond their control they turned in the alarm.

Flames Spread Rapidly.

The flames spread rapidly through the building, destroying the wooden patterns and a wood and tarpaper roof.

Fire Chief John J. Gilday said his men were hampered by the presence of oxygen and acetylene tanks, but no injuries were reported. He sounded a second alarm. The fire was brought under control after 6 o'clock.

Streams of water had to be played on a large fuel tank across the street from the plant to prevent overheating.

The plant, located in Hoboken about nine years, employed approximately 300 men. Working with Mr. Jacobs on the night shift were Paul Graetz and Maurice Straube of Jersey City, August Morris of West New York and Harry Hill of New York.

Wastebasket Tosser

Acquitted by Jury

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Dec. 14.—Loris LaRoue, 31-year-old stenographer who tossed a metal wastebasket from an 18-story hotel window at the time of Wendell L. Willkie's presidential campaign visit here September 30, was acquitted of a felonious assault charge yesterday.

A jury of nine women and three men in Recorder's Court deliberated two hours and five minutes.

Miss LaRoue said she had acted in "spirit of fun" and intended to harm no one. The wastebasket struck a spectator in the crowd, inflicting a scalp wound.

(Earlier Story on Page A-15.)

Children Pile Santa's Bag High In Attending 'Toy Matinees'

Many a Stocking in Needy Homes, Otherwise Empty, Now Can Be Filled

Thousands of Washington youngsters got together today to play Santa Claus on the grand scale.

They flocked to the 12 Star-N. B. C.-Warner Bros. "toy matinees" in such numbers that the toys they brought soon overflowed the receptacles provided.

Every toy they brought meant Christmas was coming to another needy child. And before the lights had dimmed for the "matinee" shows, theater managers were predicting that more needy children would be taken care of with toys this year than have been for a number of years.

For each child only one toy was the ticket of admission. But some of the youngsters brought several toys apiece. At the Colony Theater a 9-year-old boy lugged a shopping bag into the lobby with eight gifts.

The youngsters seemed to get as much excitement out of giving the toys as they would have out of finding them in their own Christmas stockings. It was a happy crowd of youngsters that filled the theaters this morning.

Today was the tenth annual "toy matinee" day, the time when the children of Washington have turned out to share their Christmas with

(See CHRISTMAS, Page A-3.)

Southern Conference

Votes to Ask G. W. U. To Become Member

By the Associated Press.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 14.—The Southern Conference voted today to invite George Washington University of Washington to become a member of the organization effective next September 1.

The vote, as finally recorded at the conference's annual meeting here, was unanimous. On the first ballot, two votes were cast in opposition.

Admission of George Washington will bring the conference back to its former strength of 16 members. It has been composed of 15 members since the University of Virginia withdrew shortly after the conference approved in 1935 a proposal of President Frank P. Graham of the University of North Carolina to de-emphasize football.

The stringent features of the so-called Graham plan were later modified.

Geary Office of the University of Maryland offered the motion to invite George Washington to become a member. It followed considerable discussion of the school's policies and athletic setup, details of which were explained by Max Farrington, G. W.'s director of athletics.

Before going into this matter the conference heard the annual reports of its officers, which said satisfactory progress had been made during the past year.

Plant at St. Louis

To Employ 10,000 Persons Is Included

By the Associated Press.

The War Department awarded contracts totaling \$105,887,790 today for small arms ammunition and for a new plant at St. Louis to produce the ammunition.

Officials said the awards represented the largest single ordnance manufacturing project of the current rearmament program.

The plant will be built on a 134-acre site and employ from 10,000 to 12,000 persons when it starts production, nearly a year hence.

The Western Cartridge Co., East Alton, Ill., was given a \$18,600,000 contract to supervise the layout, engineering and construction of the plant and to procure equipment and supervise its installation.

The United States Cartridge Co. of Baltimore received an \$87,279,790 award for an initial order of ammunition.

Contracts for actual construction will be awarded later. The Government will build and retain title to the plant, which will be operated on a cost-plus-fixed fee basis by the Baltimore concern.

The plant is the second to be announced, another having been arranged for recently near Kansas City to be operated by the Remington Arms Co.

Ice on Wings Forces Pigeons to Ground

By the Associated Press.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Dec. 14.—Ice forming on their wings caused 15 pigeons to make "forced landings" in downtown Springfield yesterday. Sympathetic merchants provided warmth and soon the birds were in the air again.

\$10.00 Reward

To Protect The Star

Carrier Service from Newspaper Thieves.

The Evening Star offers a reward of \$10.00 for the arrest and conviction of any person or persons stealing The Star Newspaper from carrier packs at the point of delivery, or from doorways or apartments after delivery. Any one detecting newspaper thieves should notify the police immediately.

The Evening Star

(See R. A. F., Page A-4.)

Lag in Rearming Brings Pressure For War Basis

Knudsen Says All Is Not Well; Nelson Asks More Speed

(Text of Knudsen address on Page A-4.)

By JOHN C. HENRY.

Increasing pressure to place America on a wartime industrial basis as a means of speeding our own defense program and our aid to Britain was seen developing today in the wake of arresting disclosures of the last 48 hours that both the personnel training and materiel production programs are lagging well below expectations.

Most startling of the disclosures, perhaps, was submitted last night by William S. Knudsen, production chief of the National Defense Commission, to the effect that progress in "the front line" of producing defense equipment has not been "satisfactory enough to warrant hopes that everything is all well."

Scarcely 24 hours earlier Secretary of War Stimson had told a press conference that construction delays at 25 of 40 military camps were prepared for training men will force postponements up to 10 weeks in induction of part of the National Guard. A variety of causes was cited by the Secretary, among them unfavorable weather conditions, labor shortages, strikes and lack of materials.

Nelson Asks More Speed.

And last night, too, another member of the Defense Commission, Donald Nelson, co-ordinator for procurement, sounded a call similar to that of Mr. Knudsen when he warned the Chicago Bankers' Club that although he saw "no reason for complaint on the basis of what has been done so far," it may have been a mistake to attempt rearmament through superimposing an emergency schedule on the Nation's normal economy.

"This is not a normal program in any sense," he reminded the listeners. "The realities of today cry out for speed and more speed. This means more work, more disturbance to normal processes, more sacrifice on the part of everybody. The development of bottlenecks in national industry, in national determination, in national effort to weld the entire strength of a free country into a cohesive force with a single dominant goal—national defense."

Knudsen Suggests War Basis.

Speaking before the National Association of Manufacturers in New York, Mr. Knudsen posed the question bluntly as to whether it is possible "to put the defense job on a war basis even if we are at peace."

"The public generally is sold on defense. . . . But have the two most important elements, industry and labor, been sold on the serious side of the job?"

"We have cut 20 per cent off our machine time. Can we afford to do this? Can we stop this black-out, this lack of production from Monday to Monday, and get more out of the equipment? We can train the men to operate it."

Plane Output Below Estimates.

Revealing that airplane production estimates will have to be scaled down by 30 per cent from original hopes, the commissioner credited the machine tool industry with "working hard and well" but added: "The (airplane) engine companies need equipment, in fact 29 per cent of all unfilled machine tool orders are for the aviation industry."

"Frankly we are not doing anything compared to the forecast by the manufacturers and the commission in July and our hopes for production figures of January 1, 1941, of 1,000 planes per month, have to be scaled down by 30 per cent."

"Guns and machine guns are still in the tooling stage except for such capacity as was ready before we started."

"We all seem to be worrying about how we are going to divide the profits, without giving consideration to the fact that we ourselves have to furnish the price to buy the materials with. We hear so much about all the things that ought to be fixed right away. We read resolutions from every direction."

Row Over Labor Policy.

Meanwhile, a dispute was in progress between commission officials and the War Department over application of the stated labor policy for defense contracts. Arising out of the placing of a \$2,000,000 order (See DEFENSE, Page A-4.)

Son of Former Governor

Killed by London Bomb

By the Associated Press.

WEST BROOKFIELD, Mass., Dec. 14.—Paul C. Chamberlain, son of the late Gov. Daniel H. Chamberlain of South Carolina, and his wife were killed by a bomb in London last Sunday, according to word received by friends here today.

Mr. Chamberlain, an artillery officer in the World War, became a British citizen subsequently and was a member of the Home Guard of London at the time of his death. Details of the bombing were not given. He was a former summer resident here.

Rail Traffic Interrupted

By Rumanian Oil Fire

By the Associated Press.

BUCHAREST, Rumania, Dec. 14.—A communiqué issued by the Rumanian railroad today said all traffic in the oil district between Ploesti and Buzau had either been suspended or rerouted because of the destruction of railroad lines over a bridge as a result of an oil pipeline fire.

The communiqué said the traffic will be interrupted five or six days.